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Legislative Note

During the first week of June the Senate debated several amendments to the Defense Procurement Authorization bill (S.3000) that are of concern to the Intelligence Community.

An amendment offered by Senator Proxmire would have required the Director of Central Intelligence to submit an unclassified report each year to the Congress disclosing the total national intelligence program budget. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 55 to 33.

--Opposing this amendment were a number of senators, including the Chairmen of the Community's Oversight Committees in the Senate. Their opposition was based on the belief that such a disclosure would only stimulate requests for additional detail on the foreign intelligence effort. They also argued that disclosing the total budget figure over the years would reveal trends in intelligence spending that would prove helpful to our adversaries.

--The Senators emphasized that the four Congressional Committees responsible for oversight of the Intelligence Community are fully conversant with the details and programs of the foreign intelligence budget and that they inquire deeply into these matters. They assured the Senate that they would provide information on the total figures, on a classified basis, to any Senator who wished to know.

Other amendments to the bill, affecting the CIA section of the National Security Act of 1947, and supported by the Director of Central Intelligence, were passed by the Senate. The changes are as follows:

--Emphasize that CIA is concerned only with foreign intelligence by inserting the word "foreign" as a modifier throughout the section of the law setting forth the Agency's responsibilities.

--Require that functions and duties related to foreign intelligence performed by CIA at the direction of the National Security Council shall be reported to the Congress. This provision establishes in statute a procedure followed for a number of years with the Agency's four oversight committees.

--Clarify the current statutory prohibition concerning law enforcement, police, or internal security matters by providing that CIA shall not carry out on its own or assist other agencies of Government in carrying out law enforcement or police-type operations. The amendment specifically authorizes the Agency to protect its installations, conduct investigations of those granted access to sensitive Agency information, and provide information resulting from foreign intelligence activities to other appropriate departments and agencies.

The Senate passed the Defense Procurement Authorization bill on June 11 by a vote of 84 to 6. The bill will now go to conference with the House and will require final passage by both houses before being sent to the President for signature.